

Attorney Docket MAE 289

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended): A printing apparatus including a plurality of image forming sections that are removably attached to a body of the printing apparatus, each one of the image forming sections being capable of forming an image of a respective color independently from the other image forming sections; the printing apparatus comprising:

a plurality of transfer sections each of which opposes a corresponding one of the plurality of image forming sections;

a transporting section that transports a recording medium through the plurality of image forming sections;

a power supply that supplies a transfer voltage to said plurality of transfer sections;

a specifying unit that specifies an image forming section that performs printing;

a control unit that controls the image forming section specified by said specifying unit to operate to form an image of a corresponding color, said control section controlling said power supplying section in such a way that said power supplying section supplies the transfer voltage not only to a transfer section corresponding to the image forming section specified by said specifying unit but also to a transfer section corresponding to an image forming section not specified by said specifying unit.

2.-3. (canceled)

4. (original): The printing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein when if print data contains a color corresponding to an image forming section not specified by said specifying unit, said control unit performs control in such a way that only print data for a color corresponding to the specified image forming section is processed in a format that can be printed.

5. (canceled)

AMENDMENT

4

10/614,123

Attorney Docket MAE 289

6. (currently amended): A printing apparatus including a plurality of image forming sections that are removably attached to a body of the printing apparatus, each one of the image forming sections being capable of forming an image of a respective color independently from the other image forming sections; the printing apparatus comprising:

a plurality of transfer sections each of which opposes a corresponding one of the plurality of image forming sections;

a transporting section that transports a recording medium through the plurality of image forming sections;

a power supply that supplies a transfer voltage to all of said plurality of transfer sections;

a plurality of detectors that detect the presence and absence of corresponding image forming sections in the body; and

a control unit selectively controls the image forming sections to operate according to detection results of said plurality of detectors, said control section controlling said power supplying section in such a way that said power supplying section supplies the transfer voltage not only to a transfer section corresponding to an image forming section detected by a corresponding one of said plurality of detectors but also to a transfer section corresponding to an image forming section not detected by a corresponding one of said plurality of detectors.

7. (original): The printing apparatus according to Claim 6, wherein said control unit controls a detected image forming section to operate, and said control unit does not control a non-detected image forming section to operate.

8. (currently amended): A printing apparatus having a plurality of image forming sections that are removably attached to a body of the printing apparatus and form images of different colors, the printing apparatus comprising:

AMENDMENT

5

10/614,123

Attorney Docket MAE 289

a plurality of detectors that detect the presence and absence of corresponding image forming sections in the body; and

a control unit that selectively controls the image forming sections to operate according to detection results of said plurality of detectors;

wherein said control unit controls a detected image forming section to operate, and said control unit does not control a non-detected image forming section to operate;

wherein if print data contains a color for a ~~[[non-]]~~ detected image forming section, said control unit ~~[[does]]~~ ~~[[not]]~~ processes data for the color for the detected image forming section in a format that can be printed, and stores the data into a buffer;

wherein if print data contains a color for a non-detected image forming section, said control unit neither processes data for the color for the non-detected image forming section in a format that can be printed, nor does it store the data into the buffer.

9. (currently amended): A printing apparatus comprising: including a plurality of image forming sections that are removably attached to a body of the printing apparatus and form images of different colors on a medium one over the other in registration on a medium, comprising: ~~each one of the image forming sections being capable of forming an image of a respective color independently from the other image forming sections;~~

a receiving section that receives image data;

a selecting section unit that ~~selects at least one~~ allows a user to select an image forming section that performs printing and an image forming section that does not perform printing; from among the plurality of image forming sections; and

a control section unit that controls the plurality of image forming sections in such a way that ~~[[the]]~~ when at least one image forming section is not selected and at least one image forming section is selected, the at least one image forming section selected by said selecting unit operates to form an image of a corresponding color on a medium.

AMENDMENT

6

10/614,123

Attorney Docket MAE 289

~~from among image forming sections attached to the body of the printing apparatus performs printing in accordance with the image data.~~

10. (currently amended): The printing apparatus according to Claim 9, further comprising a detecting section that detects whether a corresponding image forming section is present in the printing apparatus;

wherein if the at least one image forming section selected by said selecting section unit is not present in the printing apparatus, said control section performs an error handling operation.

11. (previously presented): The printing apparatus according to Claim 10, wherein said control section does not send the image data to a corresponding image forming section if said detecting section detects that the corresponding image forming section is not present in the printing apparatus.

12. (previously presented): The printing apparatus according to Claim 9, wherein each of the plurality of image forming sections having a corresponding transfer section, said transfer section receiving a transfer voltage irrespective of whether a corresponding image forming section is present in the printing apparatus.

13. (previously presented): The printing apparatus according to Claim 12, further comprising a detecting section that detects whether a corresponding image forming section is present in the printing apparatus.

14. (currently amended): The printing apparatus according to Claim 10, wherein when said control section controls image forming sections selected by said selecting section unit from

AMENDMENT

7

10/614,123

Attorney Docket MAE 289

among image forming sections detected by said detecting section, thereby performing printing on the medium.

15. (currently amended): The printing apparatus according to Claim 9, further comprising a display section that displays a message inquiring whether an image forming section currently displayed on said display section should be selected,

wherein said selecting ~~section~~ unit includes:

a first switch that selects an image forming section currently displayed on said display section, the first switch being operated by a user;

a second switch that switches the message on said display section from the image forming section currently displayed on said display section to a next image forming section, the second switch being operated by the user when the image forming section currently displayed on said display section should not be selected.

16. (currently amended): A printing apparatus, comprising:

a plurality of image forming sections that are removably attached to a body of the printing apparatus and form images on a medium one over the other in registration, each one of the image forming sections being capable of forming an image of a respective color independently from the other image forming sections;

a plurality of transfer sections each of which opposes a corresponding one of the plurality of image forming sections;

a transporting section that transports a recording medium through the plurality of image forming sections;

a power supplying section that supplies a transfer voltage to said plurality of transfer sections;

a receiving section that receives image data;

AMENDMENT

8

10/614,123

Attorney Docket MAE 289

a detecting section that detects whether a corresponding image forming section is present in the printing apparatus; and

a control section that allows printing of image data only of a color corresponding to an image forming section detected by said detecting section, said control section controlling said power supplying section in such a way that said power supplying section supplies the transfer voltage not only to a transfer section corresponding to the image forming section detected by said detecting section but also to a transfer section corresponding to an image forming section not detected by said detecting section.

17. (currently amended): A printing apparatus comprising:

a plurality of image forming sections that are removably attached to a body of the printing apparatus and form images on a medium one over the other in registration, each one of the image forming sections being capable of forming an image of a respective color independently from the other image forming sections;

a plurality of transfer sections each of which opposes a corresponding one of the plurality of image forming sections;

a transporting section that transports a recording medium through the plurality of image forming sections;

a power supplying section that supplies a transfer voltage to all of said plurality of transfer sections;

a receiving section that receives image data;

a detecting section that detects whether a corresponding image forming section is present in the printing apparatus; and

a control section that controls all of image forming sections detected by said detecting section to perform printing in accordance with the image data, said control section controlling said power supplying section in such a way that said power supplying section supplies the

AMENDMENT

9

10/614,123

Attorney Docket MAE 289

transfer voltage not only to a transfer section corresponding to the image forming section detected by said detecting section but also to a transfer section corresponding to an image forming section not detected by said detecting section.

18. (previously presented): The printing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein each of the image forming sections comprises a respective photoconductive drum.

19. (previously presented): The printing apparatus according to Claim 6, wherein each of the image forming sections comprises a respective photoconductive drum.

20. (previously presented): The printing apparatus according to Claim 9, wherein each of the image forming sections comprises a respective photoconductive drum.

21. (previously presented): The printing apparatus according to Claim 16, wherein each of the image forming sections comprises a respective photoconductive drum.

22. (previously presented): The printing apparatus according to Claim 17, wherein each of the image forming sections comprises a respective photoconductive drum.

23. (new): The printing apparatus according to Claim 9, wherein a user inputs a symbol indicative of an image forming section that performs printing, the symbol being inputted through said selecting unit.

AMENDMENT

10

10/614,123